

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

1. (currently amended) A surgical guide line assembly for use during a surgical procedure, said surgical guide line assembly comprising:

a repair graft assembly;

a guide line component having a proximal end and a distal end; and

at least one suture secured to said distal end of said guide line component and said repair graft assembly;

wherein each of said at least one suture includes a first end secured to said distal end of said guide line component, and a second free end, said surgical guide line assembly further comprising:

a surgical needle connected to said second end of said at least one suture,

wherein said surgical needle facilitates the attachment of said guide line component to said repair graft assembly.

2. (original) The surgical guide line assembly according to Claim 1, further comprising:

a control assembly connected to said guide line component, wherein said control assembly permits manipulation of said guide line assembly.

3. (canceled)

4. (original) The surgical guide line assembly according to Claim 1, wherein said guide line component has a bent portion located adjacent said distal end.

5. (original) The surgical guide line assembly according to Claim 1, wherein said guide line component has an articulated portion located adjacent said distal end.

6. (original) The surgical guide line assembly according to Claim 5, further comprising:

a control assembly connected to said guide line component, wherein said control assembly enables manipulation of said guide line assembly.

7. (original) The surgical guide line assembly according to Claim 6, wherein said control assembly enables manipulation of said articulated portion of said guide line component.

8. (original) The surgical guide line assembly according to Claim 1, wherein said at least one suture is secured to said guide line component within a formed cavity in said distal end of said guide line component.

9. (original) The surgical guide line assembly according to Claim 1, wherein said guide line component has a central passageway extending therein, said at least one suture is secured to said distal end of said guide line component within said central passageway.

10. (original) The surgical guide line assembly according to Claim 1, wherein said at least one suture is bonded to said distal end of said guide line component.

11. (withdrawn) A surgical guide line assembly for use in a vessel during a surgical procedure, said surgical guide line assembly comprising:

a guide line component having a proximal end and a distal end;

at least one suture secured to the distal end of said guide line component;

a control assembly connected to said guide line component adjacent said proximal end, wherein said control assembly enables manipulation of said guide line assembly within the vessel; and

a surgical needle connected to said at least one suture.

12. (withdrawn) The surgical guide line assembly according to Claim 11, wherein said guide line component has a bent portion located adjacent said distal end.

13. (withdrawn) The surgical guide line assembly according to Claim 11, wherein said guide line component has an articulated portion located adjacent said distal end.

14. (withdrawn) The surgical guide line assembly according to Claim 13, wherein said control assembly permits manipulation of said articulated portion of said guide line component.

15. (currently amended) A surgical guide line assembly for use during a surgical procedure, said surgical guide line assembly comprising:

a repair graft assembly;

a guide line component having a proximal end and a distal end;

at least one suture secured to the distal end of said guide line component and said repair graft assembly; and

a broad line assembly positioned around said distal end of said guide line component and a portion of said at least one suture,

wherein each of said at least one suture includes a first end secured to said distal end of said guide line component, and a second free end, said surgical guide line assembly further comprising:

a surgical needle connected to said second end of said at least one suture,

wherein said surgical needle facilitates the attachment of said guide line component to said repair graft assembly.

16. (original) The surgical guide line assembly according to Claim 15, wherein said broad line assembly produces a flexible curved end portion of said guide line assembly.

17. (canceled)

18. (original) The surgical guide line assembly according to Claim 15, further comprising:

a thin layer of material positioned about said distal end of said guide line

component and said at least one suture adjacent said broad line assembly.

19. (previously presented) The surgical guide line assembly according to Claim 18, wherein said thin layer of material is formed from polytetrafluoroethylene.

20. (withdrawn) A surgical separator assembly for use in separating at least two surgical components during a surgical procedure in a vessel, said surgical separator assembly comprising:

separating means for receiving the at least two surgical components during the surgical procedure;

advancing means for advancing said separating means within the vessel during the surgical procedure, wherein said separating means is rotatably connected to said advancing means; and

control means for selectively locking said separating means to prevent rotation of said separating means about said advancing means.

21. (withdrawn) The surgical separator assembly according to Claim 20, wherein said separating means includes at least two apertures therein, wherein each of said at least two apertures is sized to receive at least a portion of the surgical component therein.

22. (withdrawn) A surgical system for use during a surgical procedure within a vessel, said surgical system comprising:

at least two surgical guide line assemblies for use during the surgical procedure, wherein each of said surgical guide line assemblies comprising a guide line component having a proximal end and a distal end, and at least one suture secured to the distal end of said guide line component; and

a surgical separator assembly for use in separating said at least two surgical guide line assemblies during the surgical procedure, wherein said surgical separator assembly comprising separating means for receiving the at least two surgical components during the surgical procedure, advancing means for advancing said separating means within the vessel during the surgical procedure, wherein said separating means is rotatably connected to said advancing means, and control means for selectively locking said separating means to prevent rotation of said separating means about said advancing means.

23. (new) A surgical guide line assembly for use during a surgical procedure, said surgical guide line assembly comprising:

a repair graft assembly;

a guide line component having a proximal end and a distal end; and

at least one suture secured to said distal end of said guide line component and said repair graft assembly,

wherein said at least one suture is secured to said guide line component within a formed cavity in said distal end of said guide line component.

24. (new) A surgical guide line assembly for use during a surgical procedure, said surgical guide line assembly comprising:

a repair graft assembly;

a guide line component having a proximal end and a distal end; and

at least one suture secured to said distal end of said guide line component and said repair graft assembly,

wherein said guide line component has a central passageway extending therein, said at least one suture is secured to said distal end of said guide line component within said central passageway.